NUMB. XLIV.

The GUARDIAN.

——Hæc Iter Elysium nobis. Virg.

Friday, May 1. 1713.

I Have frequently obſerved in the Walks belonging to all the Inns of Court, a Sett of old Fellows who appear to be Humouriſts, and wrapped up in themſelves; but have long been at a loſs when I have ſeen them Smile, and name my Name as I paſſed by, and ſay old *Ironſide* wears well. I am a meer Boy to ſome of them who frequent *Gray's-Inn*, but am not a little pleaſed to find they are even with the World, and return upon it its Neglect towards them, which is all the Defence we old Fellows have againſt the Petulancy of young People. I am very glad to obſerve, that theſe Sages of this Peripatetick Sect ſtudy Tranquility and Indolence of Body and Mind, in the Neighbourhood of ſo much Contention as is carried on among the Students of *Littleton*. The following Letter gives us ſome light into the Manners and Maxims of theſe Philoſophers.

To the GUARDIAN.

SIR,

'AS the Depredations of Time and Fortune 'have been lamented in all Ages, thoſe 'Perſons who have reſiſted and diſputed the Ty'ranny of either of theſe, have employed the ſub'limeſt Speculations of the Writers in all Lan'guages. As theſe deceaſed Hero's have had their 'Places judiciouſly aſſigned them already in the 'Temple of Fame, I would Immortalize ſome Per'ſons now alive, who to me are greater Objects of 'Envy, both as their Bravery is exerciſed with the 'utmoſt Tranquility and Pleaſure to themſelves, 'and as they are ſubſtantially Happy on this ſide the 'Grave, in oppoſition to all the *Greek* and *Latin* 'Scraps to the contrary.

'As therefore I am naturally ſubject to cruel In'roads from the Spleen, as I affirm all Evil to come 'from the *Eaſt*, as I am the Weather-glaſs of every 'Company I come into, I ſometimes, according to '*Shakeſpear*,

Sit like my Grandſire cut in Alablaſter,
Sleep whilſt I wake, and creep into the Jaundice
By being peeviſh——

'I would furniſh out a Table of Merry Fame, 'in envious Admiration of thoſe Jovial Blades, who 'diſappoint the Strokes of Age and Fortune with 'the ſame Gaiety of Soul, as when thro' Youth or 'Affluence they were in their Prime for Fancy, 'Frolick and Atchievement. There are, you may 'obſerve, in all Publick Walks, Perſons, who by a 'ſingular Shabbineſs of their Attire, make a very 'ridiculous Appearance in the Opinion of the Men 'of Dreſs. They are very ſullen and involved, 'and appear in ſuch a State of Diſtreſs and Tribu'lation, as to be thought Inconſolable. They are 'generally of that Complexion which was in Faſhi'on during the pleaſurable Reign of *Charles* the Se'cond. Some of them, indeed, are of a lighter 'Brown, whoſe Fortunes fell with that of King '*James*. Now theſe, who are the Jeſt of ſuch as 'take themſelves, and the World uſually takes, to 'be in Proſperity, are the very Perſons whoſe Happi'neſs, were it underſtood, would be looked upon 'with Burning Envy. I fell into the Diſcovery of 'them in the following manner: One Day laſt Sum'mer, being particularly under the Dominion of the 'Spleen, I reſolved to ſooth my Melancholy in the 'Company of ſuch, whoſe Appearance promiſed a 'full Return of any Complaints I could poſſibly ut'ter. Living near *Grays-Inn* Walks I went thi'ther in ſearch of the Perſons above deſcribed, and 'found ſome of them ſeated upon a Bench, where, 'as *Milton* ſings,

——the unpeirc'd Shade
Imbrown'd their Noontide Bow'r.

'I ſqueezed in among them, and they did not 'only receive my Moanings with ſingular Huma'nity, but gave me all poſſible Encouragement to 'inlarge them. If the Blackneſs of my Spleen raiſed 'any imaginary Diſtemper of Body, ſome one of 'them immediately ſympathiſed with me. If I 'ſpoke of any Diſappointment in my Fortune, ano'ther of them would abate my Sorrowing by re'counting to me his own Defeat upon the very 'ſame Circumſtances. If I touched upon over'looked Merit, the whole Aſſembly ſeemed to con'dole with me very feelingly upon that Particular. 'In ſhort, I could not make my ſelf ſo calamitous 'in Mind, Body or Circumſtances, but ſome one 'of them was upon a Level with me. When I 'had wound up my Diſcourſe, and was ripe for 'their intended Raillery, at firſt they crown'd my 'Narration with ſeveral piteous Sighs and Groans, 'but after a ſhort Pauſe, and a Signal given for the 'Onſet, they burſt out into a moſt incomprehenſi'ble Fit of Laughter. You may be ſure I was no'tably out of Countenance, which gave occaſion to 'a ſecond Exploſion of the ſame Mirth. What 'troubled me moſt was, that their Figure, Age, and 'ſhort Swords, preſerved them from any Imputation 'of Cowardiſe upon refuſal of Battel, and their 'Number from Inſult. I had now no other way 'to be upon good Terms with them, but deſiring 'i might be admitted into this Fraternity. This 'was at firſt vigorouſly oppoſed, it being objected 'to me, that I affected too much the appearance of 'an happy Man, to be received into a Society ſo 'proud of appearing the moſt afflicted. However, 'as I only ſeemed to be what they really were, I 'am admitted by way of Triumph upon Probation 'for a Year; and if within that Time it ſhall be 'poſſible for them to infuſe any of their Gaiety in'to me, I can, at *Monmouth-ſtreet*, upon mighty 'eaſie Terms, purchaſe the Robes neceſſary for my 'Inſtalment into this Order; and when they have 'made me as happy, ſhall be willing to appear as 'miſerable, as any of this Aſſembly. I confeſs I have 'ever ſince been aſhamed, that I ſhould once take 'that Place to be Sacred to the Diſconſolate, which 'I now muſt affirm to be the only *Elyſium* on this 'ſide the *Styx*; and that ever I ſhould look upon 'thoſe Perſonages as lively Inſtances of the Outrage 'of Time and Fortune, who diſallow their Empire 'with

with ſuch Inimitable Bravery. Some of theſe are pretty good Claſſical Scholars, and they follow theſe Studies always Walking, upon account of a certain Sentence in *Pliny's* Epiſtles to the following Effect, *'Tis inconceivable how much the Underſtanding is enlivened by the Exerciſe of the Body.* If therefore their Author is a little difficult, you will ſee 'em fleeting with a very precipitate Pace, and when it has been very perplex'd and abſtruſe, I have ſeen a couple of theſe Students prepare their Apprehenſions by ſtill quicker Motions, till they run into Wiſdom. Theſe Courſes do not only make them go thro' their Studies with Pleaſure and Profit, but there is more Spirit and Vigour in their Dialogues, after the heat and hurry of theſe Perambulations. This Place was choſen as the peculiar Reſort of theſe Sages, not only upon Account of its Air and Situation, but in Regard to certain Edifices and Seats therein rais'd with great Magnificence and Convenience; and here, after the Toil of their Walks, or upon any ſtreſs of Weather, theſe Bleſſed Inhabitants aſſemble themſelves. There is one Building particularly, in which, if the Day permit, they have the moſt frequent Conferences, not ſo much becauſe of the Loveline's of its Eminence, as a Sentence of Literature incircling the Extremities of it, which I think is as follows. *Franciſcus Bacon Eques Auratus Executor Teſtamenti Jeremiæ Bettenham Hujus Hoſpitii Viri Abſtemii & Contemplativi Hanc Sedem poſuit in Memoriam Ejuſdem.* Now this Structure being erected in honourable Memory of the Abſtemious the Contemplative Mr. *Bettenham*, they take frequent Occaſion to rally this Erudition, which is to continue the Remembrance of a Perſon, who, according to their Tranſlation of the Words, being confeſs'd to have been of moſt Splenatick Memory, ought rather to lie buried in Oblivion.

'Leſt they ſhould flag in their own way of Converſation, they admit a Fair One to relieve 'em with hers: There are two or three thin Exiſtences among 'em, which I think I may call the Ghoſts of departed Beaus, who pay their Court more particularly to this Lady, tho' their Paſſion never riſes higher than a Kiſs, which is always

Yielded with coy Submiſſion, modeſt Pride,
And ſweet reluctant amorous Delay. Milton.

'As 'tis the Character of this Fraternity, to turn their ſeeming Misfortunes to their Advantage, they affirm it to be the greateſt Indulgence imaginable in theſe Amours, that Nature perpetuates their good Inclinations to the Fair, by an Inability to extinguiſh 'em.

'During my Year of Probation, I am to prepare my ſelf with ſuch Parts of Hiſtory, as have engaged their Application during the Leiſure of their ill Fortune; I am therefore to read *Ruſhworth* and *Clarendon*, in the Peruſal of which Authors I am not obliged to enter into the Juſtneſs of their Reflections and Characters, but am deſired to read, with an Eye particularly curious, the Battels of *Marſton-Moor* and *Edge-Hill*, in one of which every Man of this Aſſembly has loſt a Relation; and each has a Story which none who has not read thoſe Battels is able to taſte.

'I had almoſt forgot to mention a moſt unexampled Piece of their Gallantry. Some time ſince, in a prodigious Foggy Morning, I went in ſearch of theſe Perſons to their uſual Place of Reſort, and perhaps ſhall hardly be believed, when I affirm, that notwithſtanding they ſucked in ſo condenſed and poiſonous an *Æther*, I found them enjoying themſelves with as much Vivacity, as if they had breathed in the Serenity of *Montpelier*.

I am,

SIR,

Your moſt Humble Servant,

J. W.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

There is now preparing for the Preſs, A Collection of Original Poems and Tranſlations by the moſt eminent Hands, to be Publiſh'd by Mr. Steele. Such Gentlemen therefore who are willing to appear in this Miſcellany, are deſired to communicate the ſame, directed to Jacob Tonſon Bookſeller in the Strand.

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CATO, *a Tragedy. As it is acted at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane. By Her Majeſty's Servants. Written by Mr. Addiſon. Printed for Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's-Head over againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.* N. B. *There are a ſmall Number Printed on a Fine Paper.*

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At Mr. Hickford's Great Dancing Room over againſt the Tennis Court in James-ſtreet near the Hay-market, this Day, being the 1ſt of May, will be perform'd a Conſort of Muſick, Vocal and Inſtrumental, by Signor Nicolino Haym, and others. Conſiſting of ſeveral Entertainments of Singing by the Baroneſs, and another Scholar of Signor Haym, who never appeared in Publick. With ſeveral other Entertainments by ſome of the beſt Performers who are at this preſent time here in England. The Tickets will be delivered out at Mrs. White's Chocolate Houſe in St. James's-ſtreet, this Day. And at the particular Deſire of ſeveral Perſons of Quality who deſign to go to Hide Park, it will begin exactly at 8 of the Clock.

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The Life and Character of M. P. Cato Uticenſis; collected from the beſt Ancient Greek and Latin Authors. Deſigned for the Readers of Cato, price 6*d*. Alſo Mr. Kennedy's Treatiſe of the Diſeaſes incident to the Eye and Ear, pr. 2*s*. And to morrow will be Publiſhed the young Club, being a Congratulatory Poem to his Excellency John Lord Biſhop of Briſtol, Lord Privy Seal, upon the Peace ſigned at his Lordſhip's Houſe, April 11, 1713. Humbly preſented by G. Haſtings, S. Prewſter and T. Dibden, his Lordſhip's Pages. pr. 2 d. All Printed for Bernard Lintott between the two Temple Gates.

This Day is Publiſh'd, (in Quarto to Bind with the Play)

Obſervations upon Mr. Addiſon's Cato. Wherein the whole Plan, and ſome Paſſages in that Tragedy are Explain'd and Illuſtrated, with Cato's Character impartially repreſented. Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-lane, J. Graves near White's Chocolate-houſe in S. James's-ſtreet, W. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-houſe Covent-Garden, A. Dodd at the Peacock without Temple Bar and E. Curle at the Dial and Bible againſt St. Dunſtan's Church in Fleet-ſtreet, price 6*d*. Where may be had, The neat Pocket Edition, in an Elziver Letter, of Mr. Creech's Tranſlation of the Idilliums (or Love Dialogues) of that Ancient Greek Poet Theocritus; with Rapin's Diſcourſe upon Paſtorals, and the Life of Theocritus by Baſil Kennet, M. A. of C. C. C. Oxon, price 2*s*. 6*d*.

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